



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2008

MEDIA CONTACT:

Dennis Williams, Public Information Officer

Phone: 858-573-1241; Cell: 858-518-7774

Alan Johanns, Asbestos & Lead Program Mgr.,

Phone: 858-573-1262

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE

CORRECTED RELEASE

**NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK EVENTS
IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

FREE CHILDREN'S BLOOD LEAD TESTING AND LEAD SAFETY TRAINING

SAN DIEGO—October 19-25, 2008 is **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week** in the City of San Diego and throughout the United States.

The City of San Diego and its local partners will join the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in recognizing this year's theme: "Let's Wipe Out Lead Poisoning—Renovate Right!"



The City of San Diego is committed to eliminating the threat of childhood lead poisoning from our housing. Lead is a highly toxic metal that at one time was an ingredient in many household products, including lead-based paints manufactured before 1978. The primary source of lead exposure among U.S. children is lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil found in and around old, deteriorating buildings.

Today, childhood lead poisoning is considered to be the most preventable environmental disease of young children, yet an estimated 310,000 U.S. children have elevated blood lead levels. A simple blood test can help early identification of lead exposure to possibly prevent a lifetime spoiled by the irreversible damage caused by lead poisoning. But it is important not to use children as lead detectors, so the key emphasis is elimination of lead sources before children can be exposed.

(MORE)

The City of San Diego is working to achieve the federal goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning in the United States by 2010 through a robust lead hazard control grant program, enforcement, and outreach. National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week assists us to reach that important goal by:

- raising awareness about this serious health issue;
- emphasizing the importance of screening the highest risk children younger than 6 years of age, preferably screening them by 1 to 2 years of age;
- emphasizing proper use of lead safe work practices by providing free training and information at home improvement stores; and
- urging people to take steps to reduce their possible exposure to lead.

“Childhood lead poisoning is the number one preventable health problem facing children today. I urge residents to understand the danger of lead exposure to our children to help eliminate lead poisoning in San Diego.”

--Chris Gonaver, Director of the Environmental Services Department

San Diego Lead Poisoning Prevention Week Activities:

Free Lead Safe Work Practices Training

To help construction workers, property owners and property managers properly renovate and comply with the City’s Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance, the City’s Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program will conduct a comprehensive eight-hour training on how to work safely with lead paint. The training is approved by HUD and EPA. For more information or to register for the free training, go to www.lead safeneighborhoods.org and click on “Free Education and Outreach Training,” or call 858-694-7000.

- **Thursday, October 16, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Ridgehaven “Green Building” auditorium, First Floor, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, 92123.**

Free Blood Lead Poisoning Screening and Lead Poisoning Education

Blood testing is for children primarily six years of age and under. However, all children suspected of lead exposure are eligible for blood testing. Questions: San Diego County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), 619-515-6694.

- **October 21, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the North Central Regional Public Health Center, 2440 Grand Ave., San Diego, 92109.**
- **October 23, from 8:30-11 a.m. at the Central Regional Public Health Center, 5202 University Ave., San Diego, 92105.**

(MORE)

Health Screening and Informational Bazaar

Certificates to obtain free blood lead testing along with lead poisoning prevention information are available at the City of San Diego's Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program's booth. Questions: 619-515-2526.

- **October 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Family Health Centers of San Diego, 1809 National Ave. San Diego, 92113.**

Lead Ordinance for Property Owners Seminar

Overview of the City's new Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance, which affects property owners, painters, construction workers, parents, certified lead professional, home improvement stores and daycare facilities. Seminar is presented by the City of San Diego Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program for the San Diego Association of Realtors. \$10 for non-SDAR members. Participants will receive free 25 "Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home" booklets. Contact: SDAR, 858-715-8040 to register. www.sdar.com/.

- **October 16, from 12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. at San Diego Association of Realtors, 4845 Ronson Court, San Diego, 92111.**

Learn About Lead Poisoning Prevention

Training in Spanish and English. Questions: San Diego County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP), 619-515-6694.

- **October 22, from 9:30-11 a.m., at the Bayside Community Center, 2202 Comstock St., San Diego, 92171.**
- **October 23, from 3-4 p.m. at the San Ysidro Library, 101 W. San Ysidro Blvd., San Diego, 92173.**

Lead Poisoning Prevention Information Booths at Home Improvement Stores

Homeowners and construction professionals can ask experts how to protect children from lead dangers in the home, learn more about the City's new Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance, and register for free lead safety training seminars.

- **October 15, from 6-10 a.m., in front of the Home Depot, 525 Saturn Blvd., San Diego, 92154.**
- **October 18, from 7-11 a.m., in front of the Home Depot, 5920 Fairmont Ave., San Diego, 92120.**
- **October 21, from 6-10 a.m., in front of Lowe's of Mission Valley, 2318 Northside Drive, San Diego, 92108.**
- **October 24, from 6-10 a.m., in front of Dunn-Edwards Paints, 1510 Morena Blvd., San Diego, 92110.**

The City of San Diego's Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance was developed to prevent lead poisoning through lead-safe housing. The ordinance, which became effective May 9 2008, has specific requirements associated with:

(MORE)

- requiring renovators to use lead-safe work practices when disturbing lead paint on pre-1979 housing and other structures;
- requiring property owners to correct lead hazards in pre-1979 housing after notice of the lead hazard;
- Requiring property owners to perform visual inspection and correction of presumed lead hazards prior to re-occupancy of a vacant rental unit;
- requiring home improvement/water pressure equipment rental stores to make available lead education material to customers; and
- requiring that childcare facilities obtain proof of blood lead testing at enrollment.

For more information on the Ordinance, visit www.leadsafeneighborhoods.org and click on “Lead Hazard Prevention and Control Ordinance.”

City of San Diego’s Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program

- The LSNP is funded by more than \$8.5 million in state and federal grants.
- For more information on the LSNP, visit www.leadsafeneighborhoods.org.

###